

I am devastated about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

As I understand it, the airwaves are public and Sinclair has the privilege extended to them to use them but not just for their own private purposes. In dictatorships, the media is used to put across one point of view - that of the administration at the time. Does this Administration believe that, as long as the campaign money is donated to them, the airwaves have been bought to be used for the corporations sole benefit? If the decision had been to force an airing of Fahrenheit 911, would you have been so silent? And if not, as I am sure is the case, what does that say about your belief in democracy?

You just finished allowing a few corporations to own most of our forms of media. Sinclair's actions are the result. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve public scrutiny. Sinclair is clearly not serving the general public and should be castigated for its actions in this case, as well, as the Nightline issue earlier this year, and not have its license renewed unless it shows a change in its respect for and understanding of the word "public" .